

TRIBUNE

CEYLON NEWS REVIEW

50 Cts.

Vol. 18 No. 9

June 23, 1973

SHADOWS OF
COMING EVENTS

A SERMON ON
SRI LANKA

SHAMBA

U.S TECHNICAL
PRODUCTS

AIR CEYLON

JAZZ IN U.S.S.R.

CHRONICLE

D. D. Cs

WANTED URGENTLY FOR SRI LANKA

- * **A RAINMAKER** who can immediately bring down rains from the heavens, without causing floods, and rectify the damage done by the failure of the traditional monsoons to permit cultivation in the traditional manner during the last three years. The rainmaker may use divine or non-divine methods to produce rain, but there should be no foreign exchange expenditure.
- * **A WIZARD** to make people in the private sector to produce more and more: create a flourishing industry, mainly for export, based on local materials: and rejuvenate agriculture to make the country self-sufficient in food, fish and meat. The wizard must stampede individuals and private organisations into productive effort without being inhibited by the land ceiling, income ceiling and other ceilings, and after producing the maximum, willingly pay taxes at the highest levels in the world to enable a benevolent state to give free rice (for non-income-tax-payers), free medicine (from birth to death) and free education (from the kindergarten to the university).
- * **A MERLIN** who can wave his magic band and make government departments, public corporations and cooperative undertakings function efficiently: eliminate bribery, corruption and nepotism in them: compulsorily enforce the transfer of excess staff in these undertakings to new purposeful and profitable state enterprises: and make all public sector undertakings earn real profits and not profits on paper or blackmarket profits by overcharging consumers.
- * **A MAGIC FORCE** to make people think correctly and act honestly, especially people in high places: a force to destroy the corrupt and the inefficient: a force which will bring more and more of the wise and the righteous into the seats of power and authority, and thus ensure a balance of the good with the bad—which is the best we can hope for in this imperfect world in the current epoch of Kali Yuga.

Tribunania

Shadows of Coming Events

MANY EVENTS of great political significance have begun to crowd themselves into the local scene during the last fortnight. First came the rumpus over the Milk Board, and in the National State Assembly the Government agreed to appoint a Select Committee of the NSA to probe the Milk Board, especially all its activities since 1965.

The Minister of Agriculture and Lands, Mr. Hector Kobbekaduwa, had stated that he was as keen as anybody else to wipe out corruption and wanted members like Mr. Prins Gunsekera (Habraduwa) who had made many allegations in the House to give evidence before the Select Committee. The Minister also insisted that he did not want his officers slandered before they were proved guilty: "...I will defend my officers till they are proved guilty and if they are proved guilty they will be dismissed." The Minister also stated that the Milk Board had been run at a loss for many years and that it was only in 1970 it had made a profit of 8 lakhs. He also stated that the Milk Board had been run badly since 1960 and that it had incurred losses because it had not enforced a realistic pricing policy. With realistic price levels, he said, the Board

would be able to break even. The Minister explained how the different tenders were dealt with and admitted that he was not able to know what to do with the Ambawela project after Rs. 20 million had been spent on it.

Concluding Mr. Kobbekaduwa had called for the elimination of "political prostitutes" who go behind any government with the idea of getting tenders. He attacked those who had led the protest campaign against the Milk Board, and he referred to the "dry cows of Colombo 7:" he also attacked the doctors who had said that the polythene bags "unhygienic" and various modern "Moses."

The Minister made these remarks when he wound up the debate initiated by the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. J. R. Jayewardene, when he had demanded that a Select Committee of the House should be appointed to probe the affairs of the Milk Board.

Mr. Jayewardene had told the State Assembly that as a result of the rejection of a tender called for the supply of Lakspray in November 1970 the Milk Board had lost 10,980,000 rupees for one year. A consignment of 650,000 tons of milk powder ordered in June/November 1972 was found unfit for consumption. The loss to the Milk Board thereby was Rs. 5,150,935.38.

Mr. Jayewardene cited figures to prove that a tin of full cream milk powder (Lakspray) could be sold to consumers at Rs. 4.70 cts. with a profit of 25 cents to the Milk Board. If the milk powder

was packed in polythene bags, the cost to the consumer would be Rs. 2.81 cts.

Mr. Jayewardene said: "In 1969-70—6,500 tons of Lakspray powder was imported in bulk through Unigate at £ 188/105 per ton. In 1970-71 it was £ 188. In November 1970 Unigate offered at £ 198 per ton for 1971-72. "As prices were going up the General Manager, Mr. F. Seneviratne pressed for acceptance. He was sacked instead, in March 1971.

"In May-June 1971 the Chairman Mr. Salman bought at £ 320 per ton. The loss by the rejection of the earlier

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

SUBSCRIPTION Rs. 25 per year, for 52 issues, post free in Ceylon. For air mail and sea mail rates abroad, please write to the Circulation Manager, mentioning the country of destination.

TRIBUNE makes no attempt to exact complete conformity from its contributors, but rather welcomes a variety of opinions consistent with general policies.

MANUSCRIPTS. TRIBUNE cannot assume responsibility for unsolicited articles and letters. None will be returned unless so requested and is accompanied by a stamped self-addressed envelope.

offer was £ 732,000 or Rs. 10,980,000 for one year.

"In June-November 1972 an order was placed with an individual per Consolexporters for 650 tons. This was unfit for consumption. It now lies in the stores of the transport contractor, Mr. J. P. I. Piyadasa. He took the place of the earlier contractor and is also a Director in the State Trading Corporation. The loss is Rs. 5,150,935/38 of which Rs. 3,120,239/93 is foreign exchange and Rs. 2,030,695/45 FEECs."

"Lawyers fees are paid to sue the exporter. The Board was unaware and when the Chairman was questioned he left the meeting. The Board consisted of Dr. Bandaranaike, Mrs. Suriapperuma, Mr. Alahakoon, Mr. Silva (Treasury) and Dr. J. R. Perera (Chief M.O.H.)

"For 1972/73 tenders were invited for 4,000 long tons of full cream milk powder and 600 metric tons infant milk powder. The closing date was 3.5.73 at 2 p.m. When opened there were only 10 tenderers for full cream milk powder. Long after two other firms quoted. Why did they quote late? A VIP is to be agent for one and a Milk Board high official for the other.

"Certain tenderers did not comply with certain clauses of the tender conditions. Six of the original tenders should have been rejected. Of the four left, one, the lowest tenderer who passed all tests, was informed by cable to reduce the tendered price. The order was placed with another tenderer at a higher price. On the entire order

of 4,000 tons I understand an agent made, £ 68,000 as commission. Cables have been received by the Prime Minister and the Milk Board protesting against this irregular procedure.

"The Board invited tenders for the supply of 600 tons of infant milk powder, for supply during 1973-74. For this tender, five firms quoted at the scheduled time when tenders were opened on 3.5.73 at 2.30 p.m. The Milk Board made up a case to eliminate the lowest tenders, stating that the sample tested was too sweet. A cable was sent to the Milk Board that the specifications of the 'sugar content' necessary had not been mentioned in the specification, hence not to reject the tender. This was rejected.

"The reasons as to why the price of condensed milk cannot be brought down is because the Milk Board has entered a long term contract for 10 years for the supply of 'skimmed milk powder', 'butter fat', and 'butter oil', without stipulating the prices. At the time the Milk Board entered such a contract benefits had been shown to the Milk Board by the gift of some machinery for the condensary. This had been an arranged camouflage gift and that is why the prices were not stipulated in the long term contract for the supply of 'skimmed milk powder', 'butter fat' and 'butter oil'.

"If this contract is terminated a tin of condensed milk could be supplied to the consumer at Rs. 1.30 inclu-

sive of FEECs. Similarly the price of Vitamalt could be brought down if the long term contract entered is terminated.

"The prices of tin plate cans could be brought down if the Milk Board gets rid some of the suppliers. These are some of the reasons that keep the world market prices so high and make the poor consumer pay such exorbitant increased prices. Condensed Milk and Vitamalt ingredients could be purchased very much cheaper in other markets as there is no world shortage for these and the prices so high as this. Let the Milk Board invite tenders, then they will know of it.

"The Milk Board, since this Government came into power has given its transport contracts for transporting of milk



Founded 1954

A Journal of Ceylon and
World Affairs

JUNE 23, 1973

Vol. 18. No. 9

43, Dawson Street,
COLOMBO 2.

Telephone : 33172

powders, such as, full cream milk powder, infant milk powder, skimmed milk powder, butter oil, butter fat, vitamalt powder, tin plate cans, granulated refined sugar, etc. etc. to a particular transport contractor.

"Milk powder bags, that come from abroad and landed in perfect order, are damaged at the Wharf. This is done to get the insurance to condemn some bags and with the connivance of one or two insurance agents to take the condemned powder and sell to ice cream manufacturers and similar makers while a very very small quantity is given to poultry and cattle breeders by the Milk Board.

"To get these milk powder bags damaged, clearing from the Wharf, is considerably delayed and thereby the Milk Board has paid very heavy demurrages in lakhs and lakhs of rupees and the same method is adopted for the refined granulated sugar imported by the Milk Board for making condensed milk.

"So it is natural that the poor children of this country who consume milk foods, and their parents, have to pay through their nose. These are the causes for the Milk Board to increase its prices on milk products other than local milk.

"Taking these facts into consideration, should there not be a parliamentary Select Committee to inquire into these corruptions and to bring such culprits to book and deal with them as the law may permit."

THE LAKE HOUSE "takeover" Bill was before the Constitutional Court, and though some of the applicants had raised the preliminary objection that Mr. Justice Jaya Pathirana was disqualified from sitting on the Court owing to the "bias" he had already displayed to Lake House owing to his political affiliations and ideas, the Court had ruled that there was no substance in the objection. Hearings on the applications are in progress at the time of writing.

The southwest monsoon had been delayed and no rain had fallen over the Castlereagh and Mousakelle reservoirs and the Electricity Board had no alternative but to enforce further cuts—because the cuts so far and the voluntary reduction had caused only 6% reduction at first and then a 11% reduction of total consumption. It was necessary that there should be at least a 50% cut, and the Government therefore issued a decree through the Emergency Regulations that from mid-June consumers who fail to reduce their consumption by 50% would be surcharged 100% on the meter reading over 50% of their earlier monthly readings.

On Monday June 11 began the sittings of the Criminal Justice Commission on one of the Exchange Control cases. The disclosures make fantastic reading and very few people had realised that operators in blackmarket foreign currency regulations had been running amok. Lakhs of rupees in gunny sacks and pillow cases and hard cur-

rency floating around like so many balloons at a carnival make people wonder whether the unreal world of the racketeer is not after all the fairyland which everybody dreams about.

On Tuesday June 12, four candidates were nominated to the Dēdigama by-election: SLFP (UF)—Dharmasiri Senanayake; UNP—Rukman Senanayake; Sirisena Rajapakse—Independent; Jayasinghe Don Sugathadasa—Independent. It is not clear yet whether these Independents were "blinds" to draw off votes from particular groups in the electorate, or whether they are genuine lone-rangers who want to have their personalities projected into the political field for future purposes. The Independents are not likely to win, but it is yet to be seen whether they will siphon off votes which may otherwise go to one of the main candidates.

THE CONTEST is really between the SLFP and the UNP. It is a seat the UNP has held at all times and it has been a preserve of the Senanayakes. Only in the last two elections had an SLFP candidate given the Senanayakes a run for their money. Election day has been fixed for July 9 and the contest is likely to be bitter. United Front circles allege that the UNP will dip into vast private funds to bribe voters on a mass scale whilst UNP publicists allege that the SLFP would use its position in the Government to offer employment to thousands of youths in the electorate in various govern-

ment corporations to seduce the voters.

Independent political observers have not yet made any comments in public or private as to the outcome of this by-election, but many admit that the UNP will receive a large number of "sympathy votes" on account of Dudley Senanayake whilst the SLFP will poll its bedrock of party loyalists. But what is uncertain is how the uncommitted and the floating voters are likely to react: will they show their indignation over the rise in the cost of living and the chronic scarcities by voting against the UF candidate or will they think that the SLFP devil was better than the UNP devil? This will be an interesting by-election to watch. The situation will get clearer for political prognostication in the next few days.

Lake House has brought to the attention of the public the grave newsprint crisis brought about by the bungling procedures and methods of the Eastern Paper Mills Corporation. Earlier a trade union led by the SLFP MP for Minneriya, Ratne Deshapriya Senanayake, had alleged that Lake House was "running down" its newsprint stocks to make the take-over a futile and exasperating exercise (this allegation was one of many and the Prime Minister had tabled this memorandum in the NSA). Lake House had replied to these allegations as well as issued a separate statement on the newsprint position. One does not know what the EPMC has to say about all this, but there is no doubt

that it will have something to say.

Poson was celebrated with gusto with lakhs flocking to Anuradhapura and Mihintale, and though these two towns were a blaze of electric lights on June 15, the rest of the country was in semi-darkness owing to electricity cuts. More cuts have been threatened after Poson. In the meantime, the GMOA (the trade union of government doctors) has threatened trade union action over a number of grievances they have been setting out for sometime. They allege intimidation of GMOA officials by the Department among other matters.

But the real crux of the current situation in Sri Lanka centres around food, or the lack of food. The *Daily News* on June 13 had a frontpage blow-up about governmental plans for maximum production especially in rice. The story was headlined: **THREE MINISTRIES, GAS TO PLAN FOR MAHA — MAXIMUM PRODUCTION: PM TO REVIEW WORK EACH MONTH.**

With rice imports due to be banned next year, three Ministries and the Government Agents have formed a co-ordinating body to bring the largest possible acreage under paddy cultivation during the coming Maha season. To achieve this, steps will be taken to improve the existing irrigation system. Urgent studies will be made on agricultural credit, fertilizer, tillage and availability of tractors. This would allow the government to make

decisions well in time for the Maha season starting in September-October.

The Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike, will review each month the work done by this co-ordinating body so that any corrective measures could be taken to achieve the objective of increased cultivation.

Although about 1.4 million acres could be brought under paddy cultivation during the Maha season, last years' performance has not been satisfactory due to several reasons. Only 1.18 million acres were cultivated during the last Maha. Under-utilisation was 16 percent under major irrigation works, 25 percent under minor irrigation and 15 percent in rainfed paddy lands.

On the irrigation side the government agents will be assisted by technical officers of the Irrigation Ministry's territorial service to undertake improvements which are within their capacity. After the inauguration of the territorial services government agents did not have control over the irrigation works in their districts.

A special study group of the three ministries, Planning, Agriculture and Lands and Irrigation, have already started assessing the problems of credit, tillage and the availability of tractors and tractor spares in several districts including Kurunegala, Kegalle and Puttalam.

The results of these studies will be available to the government to make the necessary decisions within the next three weeks. One of the

major factors affecting paddy production last year was the lack of water mainly due to the severe drought that prevailed. However the high price of chilli too resulted in a shift from paddy to this crop and so developed areas for paddy were cultivated with an alternate crop. The coordinating body will also try to ensure that subsidised fertilizer is properly used by paddy farmers.

Government plans make excellent reading, but it is yet to be seen how they are implemented. Ever since 1947/48, there have been plans by the different governments which have ruled this country, but implementation has always fallen short of targets. In recent years this has been even more pronounced.

IN THE MEANTIME, astrologers and others of the same tribe have started making their predictions about the impact the recent transit of Saturn and the forthcoming eclipse of the sun. Astrology plays a big part in the affairs of this country through the actions of men and women (of destiny) who rule over Sri Lanka through the "democratic" process which seems to be historical *modus operandi* of governmental power for this epoch.

The Colombo Observatory issued a purely scientific note on the eclipses, but astrologers have pounced on this for their own interpretative purposes. The total eclipse of the Sun on June 30, will be visible in Sri Lanka only as a partial eclipse,

according to Mr. G. S. Jayamaha, Director of Meteorology.

This is because the sun will set over Sri Lanka, before the eclipse is complete. In Colombo, for instance, the partial eclipse will begin at 6.05 p.m. and continue until the sun sets at 6.30 p.m.

The path of the total phase of the eclipse will be more than 100 miles in width. It will extend from Guyana in Latin America across the Atlantic Ocean, the African Continent, and a portion of the South Indian Ocean. The path will also cross the west coast of Africa at 20 degrees N and traverse over parts of Mauritania, Southern Sudan Northern Kenya and Southern Somalia, leaving the east coast of Africa at the equator. Over the Indian Ocean it passes north of Madagascar and extends up to 65 degrees E. The length of the path of totality will be about 9,000 miles

The central eclipse will begin at latitude 04 degrees 25'N longitude 60 degrees W at 3.25 p.m. Sri Lanka time (9.55 GMT) and end at latitude 12 degrees 49'S longitude 65 degrees E at 6.51 p.m. (13.21 GMT).

Maximum duration of totality as observed from the earth's surface will be 7 minutes. The mean apparent speed of the shadow will be about 2,500 miles per hour. Scientists are preparing to follow the total eclipse across Africa in the prototype Concorde Jetliner 001 at a

height of 60,000 feet. The Concorde's speed will enable the scientists to observe for a period eleven times as long as they could from the ground.

Two penumbral eclipses of the moon are also due to take place on June 16 and July 15. Only the one occurring on June 16 will be visible in Sri Lanka. Its circumstances are as follows: Moon enters penumbra at 0.35 a.m.; Middle of the eclipse at 2.20 a.m. Moon leaves penumbra at 4.05 a.m.

Eclipse or eclipses—things will go on in Sri Lanka and elsewhere. But how?

PAMPERED PACHYDERM

"Wanted an elephant for so long that when we finally got her, I hardly talked to my husband and children for weeks," said American housewife Elizabeth Hammond, fending off the gentle nuzzlings of her 11-month-old, 900 pound pet, Mignon.

Nine months later, Mignon is taking up a large part of Elizabeth's day and a large part of the family living room. The elephant sleeps there in her own bed, turns on the colour TV when she's bored, blinks the lights on and off to announce her bedtime, eats £20 in groceries every day and enjoys the life of a pampered house pet.

RAMBLING NOTES

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

A Sermon on Sri Lanka

ON THE COVER this week we have set out what we consider the most urgent priorities confronting the government and the people.

Item One, it is will be said, is one of those things which is beyond the control of men or governments: rain cannot be made by man—it is something which Nature bestows. The law of averages on which meteorologists have based their predictions seems to have gone awry, and we have had three years of partial or total failure of both monsoonal rains. The failure has also been partial over different areas at different times—so that this country has not been hit by one severe drought of total magnitude in any one place. But the impact of three years of partial monsoons has begun to have its impact this year. Next year it will be worse. And unless Nature or God begins to smile upon this land again and bless us with plentiful water from the heavens in the form of well-distributed rain (which will not cause floods), life in Sri Lanka is going to be difficult.

In the Bible, one reads about the seven lean years when everything went wrong with one country. We have already three bad years and we are going into the fourth. Is there no power which can end this present drought in the areas where we need

rain most—in the *hill country* where the reservoirs for our hydro-power stations are sited, in the *dry zone* where most of our food is grown or must be grown?

Items two and three on the cover stem from the weaknesses of the flesh which have manifested themselves in acute form in recent times. The British colonialists, unwittingly may be, sowed the seeds of state benevolence on the profits of a flourishing import-export economy based on plantation crops; education was aimed at producing clerks and academics to man the administrative services and some of the lesser professions—and the island of Sri Lanka became a haven for lotus-eaters who wanted to make a quick buck as some of the owners of plantations and the merchant traders had done in the heyday of colonialism. In the years before and after independence, corruption, inefficiency and nepotism began to take firm root in the soul of the people inhabiting this island. As long as we had a plentitude of sterling balances and other financial reserves, these weaknesses of the flesh did not cause tensions and bring disaster. Today, when we have run down our finances and our stocks, these evils make life more difficult and make our efforts at greater production go wrong.

Only a great moral upheaval can change this state of affairs. But how?

Our cover this week is a sermon—a sermon in reverse. It is true that sermons have not changed anybody's way

of life. Wise expositions from the pulpit, or sane counsel in the form of bana, in the present context of a youth in revolt, have not the magic to change the thinking of the vast masses. At the moment, the situation is becoming difficult enough to make people think, and the matters on which we have turned the spotlight on the cover this week, are intended to make people think. What we have pointed out is not new: they have been spotlighted by many in many places. But they can stand repetition, and in *Tribune* we have repeated them so often and has become a constant chorus with us based on a single theme. But we will keep on repeating—because some day, some time, it will hit the tide which may bring the change in the affairs of our land. Many more people besides ourselves say the same things, in different words and in different idiom—all this will help to bring a new renaissance which neither Senanayake benevolence nor Bandaranaike socialism has so far brought to this blessed little isle.

THE LEADERS of the Government in Sri Lanka can take what comfort they want from the fact that in practically every country of the world there is trouble and confusion. *India*. We append below a comment in an Indian paper which is not very kindly disposed to the Indira Gandhi government, but what the paper states cannot be ignored or brushed aside. "...Failure, confusion of policies and inter-Ministerial

wranglers are writ largely on the face of the Government of India. According to reports the Planning Commission has not progressed even an inch towards formulating the Draft Fifth Plan which ought to be ready by September. All previous calculations about the Plan have been upset by the enormous rise in prices which are up by 20 percent in May over the previous year's. There is now a weekly rise of about 1 per cent in prices. The Planning Commission feels that the Finance Ministry is unable to check price-rise.

"There is some truth in this feeling. The recent increase in the bank-rate reflects this failure to hold the price-line. The Reserve Bank has apparently failed to exercise restraint on lending during the busy season just ended. The worst culprits seem to be the Governments themselves which have resorted to borrowing from commercial banks to meet day-to-day expenditure. The Finance Ministry has now come down heavily on governmental spending but the ruling Congress is committed to so many hare-brained schemes such as crash Employment programmes that it is difficult for Ministries to restrain spending:

"The Planning Commission's assessment shows that the crash rabi programme launched last winter has been a failure. The food Ministry at first claimed that it would be able to increase production by 15 million tonnes by spending Rs. 150 crores. Later this was scaled down to 6 million tonnes. This

was further reduced to 3 million tonnes. The Planning Commission appears to feel that actually there has been a decrease in production. That raises the question where the money spent on the crash programme has gone.

"It is privately stated that part of the money went to the richer farmers as loans for various inputs and capital expenditure. They in turn used the money for their own private purposes. There was also a virulent famine of fertilizers at the time. The wheat-price offered by the Government was unattractive. The talk of wheat trade takeover had already convinced many a farmer that it would be unprofitable to grow wheat. The better-off farmer therefore switched crops and grew coarse grains the price of which had skyrocketed. The result is that wheat production, instead of rising to 30 million tonnes from 23 million tonnes, actually rose only to 25 million tonnes which would have been the case even without the crash programme.

"After this fiasco, the Planning Commission is strongly opposed to a kharif crash programme. Although the rains are only a week or so away, the kharif crash programme is not yet ready. The Food Ministry has been paralysed by the dual control, with Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed acting as the *de jure* Food Minister and Mr. T. A. Pai acting as *de facto* Food Minister. In fact Mr. Ahmed has chosen to go on extensive tours at a time when his presence in the Capital is

absolutely necessary to finalise the kharif programmes.

"The Food Ministry has stopped giving the figures of procurement of wheat. This is because the figures are anything but flattering. In fact they are alarming. In the last two weeks when procurement should have been at a peak, the daily procurement has fallen to nearly 50 per cent of the achievements of the middle of May. Which means that wheat arrivals in the markets have further gone down. The smuggling of wheat continues unabated. And some Congressmen have charged other members of their own Party with abetting this smuggling. With wheat selling at Rs. 130 per quintal in Haryana and Punjab and at about Rs. 300 per quintal in Bombay, who would not be tempted to make a fast buck by sending wheat from Haryana to Bombay, even if some risks are involved in the process?

"In these circumstances the spectre of a food famine haunts the country, according to knowledgeable observers in Delhi. They say that with just 4 to 5 million tonnes of wheat in the kitty, the Centre would not be able to supply stocks to the fair price shops for more than two months. Another two million or three million tonnes of wheat might see us through two more months. What happens after August? The State Governments which do not make food policy are likely to be under great pressure from the people for food and the Centre which makes the food policy will

be hard put trying to spread the small stocks of food across the vast country.."

THERE IS no doubt that India faces the same kind of problems as those which confront Sri Lanka —but on a bigger scale. Such problems seem to face nearly all developing countries. The central question seems to be how a poor country can leap-frog into affluence expeditiously. The *Economist*, 2/7/73, discusses this matter in regard to three Latin American countries: Chile, Argentina and Brazil. The comment arose because Argentina has now a new government led by Campora who won on a package claiming to be the essence of peronist policies. Peronism is now regarded as leftwing because it centres around "a rather emotional form of nationalism and because it was likely to adopt anti-American postures and hostility to some of Argentina's larger foreign investors.

According to the *Economist*, "in an economically dependent country, the most important dividing line between political parties is not between right and left but between those who take a liberal view of foreign investment and those who see it as a vampire draining of the country's resources.."

This is also true of countries like Ceylon also: The SLFP and the UNP both claim to be "leftwing" though their electoral base is dependent on cultural and religious emotionalism, but the main distinction between them lies in their attitude to foreign investment

and investors. In fact, some sections of the SLFP may tend to agree with the UNP on the question of foreign investment (both the UNP and the SLFP have issued White Papers on foreign investment with minor variations), but it is the leftist coalition partners of the SLFP, viz the the LSSP and the CP, which take a consistent and adamant stand against foreign investment and investors.

The distinction the *Economist* makes is realistic and pragmatic though it may offend the idiom of marxist analysts.

Regarding the question of economic dependence and the ways to overcome it, the *Economist*, states: "...one fashionable theory of development economics (taken to its extremes by marxist economists like Mr. Andre Gunder Frank) maintains that foreign investment and unequal distribution of income are the roots of economic backwardness of Latin American economies. The advocates of this view maintain that, by nationalising foreign companies, you can stop the drain of resources abroad, and by redistributing income you can expand the internal market and provide the incentive for local industry to expand. This is the simplest way of putting the 'structuralist' view, and it is likely to guide Dr. Campora's planners. **The trouble is not only that assembling the necessary capital from inside the country means squeezing the poor majority as well as the tiny minority and enforcing the squeeze by the power of the gun.."**

Even the myopic can see that this is what is being done in Sri Lanka. Everybody is being squeezed in order to accumulate capital for development. But whether this will work in this country is yet to be seen.

But of Latin American countries, the *Economist* says: "The other difficulty is that so far the structuralists' prescriptions have failed to work. Many Latin American governments are now inclined to toughen up in dealing with long-established foreign firms that have profited from favourable tax and tariff agreements. But despite increasing Japanese and European interest in Latin America, the continent is no mecca for foreign investors; it is dangerous to scare off the suppliers of technology and managerial knowhow that today (more than lack of capital) are the basis of economic dependence. Similarly, a redistribution of income is unlikely, by itself, to generate the conditions for faster economic growth. The Brazilian formula, 'to grow is to concentrate', sums up a fundamental truth: that industrialisation requires a concentration of capital and resources. The Brazilian model is unpalatable to many Spanish American governments, since it involves postponing any radical attempt to tackle the country's appalling problems of poverty and injustice. This has troubled prominent politicians in Brazil itself and was a factor in the recent resignation of Senhor Cirne Lima, the agriculture minister. But the dangers in the alterna-

tive, structuralist, model are equally obvious, above all in Chile, where a Marxist government's reckless confiscation of private farms and factories will result this year (according to official estimates) in a 22 percent drop in agricultural production and a 10 percent drop in industrial production. The Brazilians' impressive growth rates suggest that it is by expanding production that you eventually broaden the base of demand, and that in Latin America it is hard to do it the other way."

AMERICA is now pursuing a policy of maintaining its power and influence through proxies: i.e. they are counting on the Brazilians to act as a stabilising force on the South American mainland, or the Mexicans to maintain regional security in Central America and the Venezuelans to play a similar role in the Caribbean. The USA is now building up Iran to be the watchdog in the Persian gulf and together with Israel safeguard its oil supplies from the Mediterranean and the Persian Gulf.

The emergence of a new left-inclined government in Argentina has changed the balance of power in the continent as a whole. It will provide significant leftwing backing for Dr. Allende's government in Chile: it will reinforce the movement to establish normal relations with Dr. Castro's Cuba. Even more than this the shift in the balance of power will place new pressures on conservative governments in the region to change

their "rhetoric", if not their basic policies.

The Economist sums up: "Latin America has become the prime testing ground in the developing world for rival theories of economic development as well as for revolutionary (and counter-revolutionary) tactics. The political convulsions of the coming years are likely to be all the bigger because of the partial withdrawal of the United States has opened a new power vacuum. There will be greater temptation for other outside powers to become involved. There may be short-term profits in all this for European, and Japanese investors. But the long-term danger is that a number of Latin American countries will slide into emotional, and basically reactionary autarky that can only result in Cuban-style dependence on the communist world—if the communist powers are willing and able to provide the money. And that would be a curious result for the search for independence."

We have quoted from the *Economist* at some length because a great deal of what it says applies to the current problems of Sri Lanka. With the SLFP as the dominant partner of the Government, there has been strong resistance to the country placing too much reliance on help either from the Eastern European communist bloc or from communist China. In either case, there are restrictions and limitations on the help these countries can render

Sri Lanka. And this country wants to keep the investors from the capitalist bloc at arms' length especially the old traditional investors from the Anglo-Saxon group. European investors, like France, and East Asian investors, like Japan, are cashing in on this in a small way, but their investments are not likely to effect any major changes in the economic structure of the island.

WHILST the problem of economic development remains a central issue, the country is at the mercy of international events which seem to affect its wellbeing of Sri Lanka in many ways. Many people in this country do not seem to realise that the whole world is in turmoil and the leading statesmen of the world are regularly meeting each other to see how some semblance of order can be brought not only into the monetary and fiscal problems of the world but also in the political confrontations which beset the world today.

This week President Nixon and Party Secretary Brezhnev are in a summit meeting in Washington and in California. Last week Nixon met Pompidou in Iceland. The Chinese Foreign Minister has been touring European capitals and has concluded his odyssey with a long stop-over in Pakistan. The British Foreign Secretary has also been hopping about from capital to capital.

There is also a new battle of the seas and oceans: and the old Anglo-Saxon concept

AIR CEYLON

COME FLY WITH ME

By
CANAX

AIR CEYLON has been in the news of late, in addition to being in the air for some time now, though some would have it that our national carrier is far more on terra firma, well and truly grounded, than it is in the air. And all because the airline made known its desire to get itself a second DC-8. From what I can see the critics, almost without exception, have all made the elementary mistake of assuming that Air Ceylon wants to expand merely to give our tea a run for its money as the country's top foreign exchange earner. Or maybe it's gems now, but I'm not sure.

Shaking off the colonial mentality seems to be easier said than done. Our thought

of the freedom of the seas has been challenged, and Iceland has become the testing ground of the new demand by countries that fishing rights up to 200 miles or more should be reserved for nationals. The British, on the basis of the older concept, insist that any nation has the freedom to fish outside the territorial limit of 12 miles.

World headlines in the media had Princess Anne's engagement competing with the call girls' scandal in Britain, Watergate in the USA and the Parliamentary bribery scandal in last January.

process seems yet to be dominated by the profit-motive, a remnant of the filthy capitalist (or colonial, which is one and the same) system. Even Air Ceylon is expected to make money, first, last and always.

If I may make a confession, I thought so too. But not any more, thanks to a VIP in Air Ceylon who straightened me out on a lot of twisted points. My conversion occurred like this:

I began by asking about a rumour currently going the rounds. "Is it true, sir, that you want another aircraft so you can pioneer a new class of flying seat?"

"We have first-class and economy, like everybody else."

"I hear you want to economise on the 'economy', pack in more seats and charge extra by calling them 'sleep-ettes'. That way, I'm told even IATA can't object to the extra charge."

"That's a typical Railway canard," he said angrily. "The trouble with them is they have one-track minds beyond Polgahawela, up north, and Kalutara, down south."

"The theory is that you want a second long-range aircraft to help NM bridge his Budget deficit," I said.

"No, no," he said quickly. "That's not our objective,

since it's each man for himself first in the revenue game. If by any chance we manage to bridge our own deficit, NM can have what's left. With our compliments, of course."

"But surely, sir," I pressed him, "you *do* want to make money, don't you, and an extra DC-8 will help you do that?"

"Well, you could say that," he replied non-committally.

"My saying it doesn't help," I protested, "but your Minister has said so in as many words, and I think he was being serious."

"I've no doubt he was, too." "Don't you agree with what your Minister has said?"

"Who am I to disagree with my Minister?" he asked, showing genuine surprise.

"You mean you agree?"

"If you're asking for my opinion, I don't have one. It's better that way than to have one, for you'll never keep it to yourself."

"Do you have any strong objections to making money?"

"None that I can think of," he said. "It's one way of making a living, I suppose."

By now the inescapable impression I had formed was that my VIP was being as reluctant to deal with me on the level as were Air Ceylon's planes of taking off on schedule. So tactically I switched to a frontal attack.

"If you don't mind my saying so, sir," I said bluntly, "I get the feeling you're not exactly being free and open with me."

He gave me a long, pitiful look, and sighed, "You're no different from the others. You simply don't understand."

"I can't very well understand what I don't know," I retorted. "All I'm asking you, sir, is that you tell me."

"I can tell you, yes," he said, lowering his voice, "but can I be sure you'll understand?"

"Worth giving it a try," I suggested hopefully.

HE SEEMED to concur, for he said, with a solemnity commonly reserved for pronouncements from a pulpit: "Charity begins at home."

I thought about it for awhile. "I've heard that before somewhere." "Where?" he demanded, looking worried.

I thought awhile longer. "At home," I said finally. "That's all right, then," he said, visibly relieved at my answer. "You had me worried for a moment."

He had me worried, too, and for more than just a moment. It had never occurred to me until then to ask myself where my wife was picking up such profundities.

"If you remember what I just told you," he went on, "you're sure to understand, for our whole approach flows from that."

I thought I was beginning to understand already. "Oh, Air Ceylon is an Approved Charity?" I asked rhetorically.

He hushed me nervously. "Not so loud!" he whis-

pered, "and not so fast, either. It's not official yet."

I apologised for jumping the gun, and promised to listen more and talk less.

"We've been called a lot of names," he added, "and all because people don't understand that Air Ceylon is like no other airline in the world. We try to help the helpless regardless of the cost to ourselves....."

"Very few people outside this building know what we are really up to, or would appreciate it if they did. The charity we do goes out to the world like a thief into the night, but that's because our approach is different to Rotary, the Lions and Jaycees....."

"Would it surprise you to learn, for instance, that Air Ceylon is an active life member of that publicity-shy worldwide organisation called SPCOA?"

I LOOKED blankly at him for the initials meant little to me, and surprised me even less.

"It stands for the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Old Aircraft. Are you surprised?"

I shook my head vigorously from side to side, indicating I was made of sterner stuff. Nothing about Air Ceylon could possibly surprise me, and I wanted him to know it.

"I think our membership of SPCOA calls for a word of explanation," he went on. "As I said, Air Ceylon is like no other airline in the world. Most airlines have turned

ruthless in their treatment of aircraft, not merely flogging them to near-death with impossible hours of work but also enforcing an arbitrary and heartless retirement scheme after just a few years of faithful service....

"The accent, unfortunately, is fully on pampering the passenger, with not a thought spared for the poor aircraft. Just because a mere fraction of the world's population fancy flying faster than is good for them and everybody else, all the leading airlines go into a frenzy, each one trying to outdo the other in the race to oblige...."

"Not so with Air Ceylon. In our order of priorities, aircraft come first, our Directors next, our employees third, and paying passengers coming a close last—provided they behave, that is. With so much tradition behind it, Air Ceylon naturally shows the same high degree of concern and respect for its old and faithful aircraft as our people display for the elderly and aged. Why else would we spend so much time, effort and money caring for the couple of DC-3s we've had for nearly 30 years now?"

"We can't prevent our aircraft talking, you know, especially when they want to say nice things about us. Our DC-3s kept saying what a wonderful time they were having out here and, as was to be expected, word of this got back to the family. The next thing was, of course, a communication from SPCOA saying it had received a pathetic

appeal from two more members of the DC family, both asking to come over and spend their old age with us....

"This was a bit awkward for us, for our general policy until then was to look after only aircraft that had grown old in service with us. Since SPCOA had, in a confidential note, strongly supported sympathetic and urgent consideration of the appeal on the grounds that the two aircraft were, to its knowledge, being harassed and ill-treated by the French, we felt we had to stretch a point..

"Well, that's how and why we got our first DC-8. We said okay, but we'll take one for a start, and asked for the one most in need of our care and comfort. So the older one came first....

"It seems now that the second DC-8 is also as much in need of our assistance. The aircraft is that much older since it's first appeal, and SPCOA reports suggest it's life is in imminent danger, what with ill-treatment on top of old age..

"How anybody can sit and seriously fiddle about with questions like whether a second DC-8 will bring us more money, or less, or none at all in such circumstances makes me ashamed to call myself a Sri Lankian....

"I hope you understand now," he said finally, looking earnestly into my eyes, no doubt expecting that understanding to show there. "Air Ceylon is like no other airline, because it has a heart. Any airline can lose money, and almost all of them do, but not one of them can also claim, like Air Ceylon can, to do so with feeling."

JAZZ IN THE USSR

L. GERESIMOVA

SOVIET JAZZ was born in October 1922, when Valentin Parnakh, a poet, musician and actor in the Meyerhold company, introduced on the stage a primitive jazz band, and called it the "first eccentric orchestra."

Recently, a series of concerts were arranged at the polytechnical Museum and the concert hall of the Soviet Composers Union to mark the jubilee of Soviet jazz. In one session the "grandfathers" and "grandsons" met on stage: the pioneers of Soviet jazz and its younger generation. Leonid Utyosov, Alexander Varlamov, Oleg Lundstrem, and Latsi Olakh spoke of the past, and their friends and colleagues who made Soviet jazz history.

A big surprise was the performance given by a band of veterans of the 20s and 30s. The music they played took the audience back to the early years of Soviet jazz. At that time there were a good many bands and orchestras which played the best classics of jazz, and young Soviet composers then began to write new compositions. A great contribution to popular jazz and light music was made by Leonid Utyosov and Alexander Tsfasman. Their ensembles were rather showy. The State Jazz Orchestra and the Radio Orchestra under Alexander Varlamov, which were set up in the late Thirties, were the immediate "ancestors" of the modern jazz orchestras of USSR. They exer-

cised a strong influence on the style of the later generations of players. Both reared cadres of composers and musicians.

In the USSR there is now a multitude of big professional bands and jazz groups. Jazz music can be heard live and on the air, at clubs and dances. Jazz fans in Leningrad and Moscow, Kuibyshev and Donetsk, Tbilisi and Yerevan and many other Soviet cities and towns have organized jazz clubs and hold jazz festivals with the help of local public bodies. The festivals star leading jazz bands and musicians. Soviet jazzmen take part in foreign competitions too.

All this is the result of a serious attitude to jazz on the part of musicians and fans. As a trend in music and aesthetics, jazz has inspired many talented Soviet composers, enriching them with new ideas and providing new idiom. Soviet composers like Rodion Shchedrin, Andrei Eshpai and Murad Kazhlayev have been actively participating in festivals and competitions. They have composed many fine works for large and small groups.

With the emergence of a galaxy of young talented jazzmen (Garanyar, Zubov, Rychkov, Bril, Bulanov and Lukyanov in Moscow; Nosov and Golhtein in Leningrad), who specialize in modern style, the role of composers performing their own music has grown immensely.

Top U.S. Technical Products for 1972

By Walter Froechlich

EYEGASSES for the blind; a temperature-sensitive fabric that automatically helps the wearer keep warm in the cold, and cool in hot weather; and identification machine that recognizes persons by looking at their hands—these were among the "100 most significant technical products" developed in the United States last year.

Among the leading U.S. technical research creations for last year were an electric cooking range that doesn't get hot, and an instrument that allows a patient to measure accurately his own blood pressure. The products were selected by a panel of distinguished U.S. scientists and research administrators in a competition sponsored over the last ten years by "Industrial Research," a Chicago-based magazine. Winning products were displayed for three weeks at the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago.

The eyeglasses for the blind were developed by the Electro-Optics Division of the Sensory Aids Research Company, Albuquerque, New Mexico. They look almost like ordinary glasses, except that the sides of the frames leading to the ear piece resembles a thin flashlight. Built into those parts are two miniaturized units—a transmitter and receiver for invisible infrared lights. If an object is in front of the

wearer, the pulses of infrared light emitted by the unit are reflected back to the receiver in the eyeglass frame, which emits a tone warning the blind wearer of obstructions.

PLASTER WALLS which reflect infrared light well can be detected by the wearer at a range of about 10 to 13 feet. Objects that reflect poorly, such as certain fabrics, can almost always be detected at a range of five feet.

The temperature-responsive fabric was developed by J.P. Steven and Company, Garfield, New Jersey. Called "Thermadapt", it consists of shallow fabrics containing a mixture of gas and solvent. As the surrounding temperature cools, the solvent freezes, thereby expelling the gas into the tube-like fibres and making them expand. As the tubes swell, the weaver of the fabric becomes tighter, acting as insulation retaining heat.

The process reverses as the temperature rises. The solvent melts and absorbs the gas mixture, allowing the tubes to shrink. That loosens the weaver of the fabric, permitting air and moisture to circulate through it. The new material is expected to be used in blankets and window draperies and eventually in coats and suits and other apparel.

THE IDENTIFICATION machine developed by the Identification Corporation, Northvale, New Jersey, verifies a person's identity in less than a second by measuring and comparing his hand geometry against coded information stored on a card or in a computer memory. The person to be identified inserts his identification card containing coded information into the machine and then places his hand on the machine's lighted surface. If the hand and information on the card or in the machine's memory do not match, the machine flashes a light and sounds a warning. The heat-free range was developed by the Westinghouse Electric Corporation, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. It uses a method known as "Electro-magnetic Induction." Electrical coils in the smooth, flat top of the range create a current in the atoms of the cooking pot or other metal containers. This causes the pot to heat to cooking temperature without substantially heating any part of the range.

No electrical volrages are created in the container and there are no flames or hot heating elements. Because there are no burners, the range can be cleaned easily immediately after cooking, since it gets no more than slightly warm from contact with the heated pot above it. Though the range is designed for home use, its coil arrangement and circuitry also are expected to find many uses in industry.

The do-it-yourself blood pressure reading device, join-

SHAMBA

Seeds, Plants, Vegetables — Birth, Death and Growth

MAY 1-8

by ANATORY BUKOBA

May 1,

Today, I think, we really made a start. After two starts to grow vegetables, both failures, we made a third try at it today, under somebody who seems to know something about it. The seeds

tly developed by Sears Roebuck and Company and the Inventure Development Company, Auburndale Massachusetts, has a cuff design so that a person can put it around his wrist without help, and the reading is automatically recorded on paper with an accuracy equal to that obtained by physicians.

The user's blood pressure is sensed by the device electronically from the sound of blood flowing through vessels. The unit is expected to be used by patients with abnormally high blood pressure whose medication dosage for control of the condition needs to be adjusted to the reading at that time.

The 100 selected products range in price from a 10-cent plug that automatically adjusts to ear size for protection against industrial noises to a 450,000 dollar, 23-foot aluminium submarine for carrying two persons under water for up to 48 hours. It is designed solely for under-water biological research.

we used were those we had extracted from chillies, brinjals and tomatoes we had brought for our food. I had done this with potatoes, but, I think, the earth was either too hot for them, or they were just not good enough to be used as seed. We saved papaw seeds today, too, just like the brinjals, chillies and tomatoes. The space we used was very small, well shaded, and bare earth turned over and made into a bed, earth that had not grown grass before, so we should not be cluttered up with weed.

Now that we have so many things growing here and there some of them may be forgotten for a whole day or more, when it comes to watering. Once it was the newly planted sweet potato that was neglected, and another time some of the manioc and yesterday I discovered a bed that I had not watered for weeks but which appeared to have two plants, what I cannot tell. If what I saw were the plants that I had put down, they have certainly done well for all the neglect they suffered in the matter of watering. May be they had caught the rain at a good time.

Now we have both to go on with the clearing and keep what we have cleared clean. The latter is an easy

job within the V.C. katha, but it must not be forgotten. So much for clearing and appearances, and keeping up appearances, all very important. Then there is the list of what we have grown and sown, and the new planting that had to be undertaken. One day, too, we shall have livestock, after my first forlorn attempt at it, which I have described. I still feel sad when I think of those two chicks.

There is no simple solution to anything when it comes to translating it into action. One thing, however, I am convinced of. The solution to Ceylon's problems does not lie in mere production, and still less in five-year Plans, however well translated into action. What I think is more important is raising the value of our currency not in multiplying the currency, which comes out in higher wages, etc.

The way to raise the value of the currency of this country is to cheapen the value of all goods, and this must apply to all spheres. We might well start with the tourist industry by seeing that the tourist literally pays no more for these facilities than the goviya pays for his. When Ceylon currency buys more locally, and locally in every sphere, it will not be long before it buys more in foreign goods and services, and that is what the man in the street and the man in the fields wants. Do not confuse enhancing the value of the currency with lowering wages. It emphatically does not mean that, any more than

it means increasing them. Now I do not think that this can be done by legislation. It requires a new spirit and a new determination on everybody's part, although it must be given a lead somewhere. There is no part of life that can be neglected in this matter. It does not mean spending less, but it means getting more for what you spend, and we can use our ingenuity in seeing that we do.

This disquisition of mine was brought on by seeing the wonderful resilience, independence and good humour of our people. No set back, whether it comes from the Government or from other causes seems to get the better of them. There is really not much wrong with Ceylon, except in the so-called educated spheres, people who have lost the art of living, although they are the very people who think they have found it, and it is these people who control the country and I think that goes for every other country, too, more or less. This is plain to see because it is these very people who are the strongest advocates of birth control, thank heavens there are still among them people who have an open mind on this subject, which, if pursued, can only bring disaster on those who practise it, and on any country that openly advocates it through its rulers and legislature.

May 2,

We decided to do no watering this morning, except for the new seed beds, and we continued to clear

the land. Yesterday, when I came back from the Post Office I found my foot, or rather one of my toes, so unbearably painful that I thought I had better give it a rest. It has been bad for a day or two, and this is the second time it has flared up in ten days.

I was told to draw some water from the river, and as I was the only one who could be spared I acquiesced. This morning I could hardly put my foot on the ground, but again, I was helping to clear the thorns not much later. How easy it is to want to "pack up". Sheer necessity made me continue, and each time that I had reached "breaking point" I found I was able to continue and that it was not so bad after all. What was cleared had to be carried, by hand in spite of the thorns, some distance away to be cleared of the trees. Where the heap is now it will damage no trees when it is set fire to.

This evening, all the seeds that I had gathered here, and all the seeds that I had brought from Colombo were sown. My house has always been left in charge of someone, however brief my time away. Nonetheless each seed packet has been nicely sliced open, and most of the seeds taken out. Nearly all my lime seeds, too, if not the lot, have been removed and this might even go for papaw seeds.

We had our shower of rain today, at dusk. Our discarded coconut has been used as manure, and so have

the shavings from certain vegetables. The newly planted murunga has taken a hold of the soil. The plantain tree that was operated on does not look too good

May 3,

The seeds that we have collected straight from the vegetables we have brought for the "kitchen" have been tomato, red chillies, and brinjals. All these have been dried and sown in tiny little seed beds. All the seeds of the fruit that I have eaten and managed to save various kinds of oranges, and lemon, lime, and water melon have also been sown in small seed beds. The seeds that I brought from Colombo, or rather what was left of them after the rest was pinched, beetroot, cucumber, lady's fingers, capsicum, beans and some chillies have also been sown in beds. The lettuce, tomato, carrot and tampala can be written off as I had already given the balance of what I had sown away before the theft, and what I had sown turned out a failure except for a little carrot and tampala and these have just disappeared, apart from the first lot of carrot that I dug up to have another go at it, for there was so little of the first crop. Somebody brought me some bundakka seeds, and these also have been sown. All that remains to be sown are some large seeds of some fruit trees that, because they will take time to germinate, will have to be planted in *attilis* and coconut shells. This is just a summary of the seeds that have

On The Farm

been sown in the last two days. Last night I was too sleepy to give an exact account of them.

The wood-apple is giving the same anxiety. There are a large number of fruits on some of our trees, and I am wondering if I can clear the land in time to save the wood-apple from being stolen or just left in the thickets. Now I have a companion and we work well together. There was that long spell of two and a half months when I was alone except for a fortnight, and that was a tremendous set-back to my getting on my feet. However, it had a good side, and that is that I would never have got to know my neighbours so well or appreciated them so much if I had been an efficient machine right from the start, and these human relationships are more important than material success, I think.

One vegetable grows wild here and that is *vel-penella*. It is almost like spinach and it is said to be as strengthening. We had it with our rice both yesterday and today. It is bitter like spinach and it has to be cooked carefully if it is not to be too bitter. This evening we had it with potato, tomato, chilli, red onions, and cooked it in coconut oil. In spite of these accessories it was the main dish, and it tasted better than yesterday when it tasted bitter.

Before I get down to writing these notes, I have to impart some knowledge of English, and my pupil is very exacting. He sets the pace,

and more or less the course the lesson goes. Infact, it is he who prepares the lesson not me, and he has no books to help him. I would not use a book anyway.

Our clearing today was mostly with the mammoty, gathering the earth as we went, and seeing a plant of it here and there for its seed. There was also a little *irrenusen* which we saved, it can be drunk like tea.

May 4,

We got straight on to clearing. With the heavy dew this morning and the heavy rain two nights ago, we thought we would waste no time with watering first. We used mammoties and a slasher and also the V.C. katha in one place, some *vel-penella* plants we saved, instead of uprooting it all for our meal as we did yesterday. There is a plant very like the *vel-penella* and I confused the two when it came to gathering some for our meal. Fortunately my companion put me right. This evening, before dusk, and between two light showers of rain, we used ordinary sticks and poles to gather up the grass and the rubbish and to root it out from the earth that clung to it. We sorted out some more tomato seeds from some tomatoes we bought.

Extravagant I was today. I bought some ghee to cook the *vel-penella* in, and my companion who is the cook, and who tasted the fruit of his work, says that with the ghee all the bitterness has gone out of the *vel-penella*.

One weed that is prolific here, and which I think must have played a major part in the defeat I suffered in my first two attempts to grow vegetables on a larger scale than I had been doing before, is *kallantheru*. It is almost like grass to look at, but in actual fact it is a herb. The part of this grass-looking herb that is used is a seed at the base of the stalk and above the root. It cannot be seen at first sight, but it can be felt, and then removed. I believe the herb is good for stomach-ache, and my recollection after examining it this morning, is that it has a strong pleasant smell.

It was a surprise to me yesterday to be given soup before my curry and rice. A little too much water had been added to the rice, and the result was that when the rice was cooked this water was left over, it is called *kandhe*. To it was added salt and coconut and it made a really delightful soup, hot as all soups should be. One soup was made from water that was used to boil what is called Sinhala *hal* or Sinhala rice. The kind of rice, I understand, makes a difference to the soup.

Sago makes a fine drink, and it is made with less water it becomes a pudding, to be eaten with a spoon. Some people make a great thing of putting coconut in it, but I think that is quite unnecessary when you consider the price of coconuts. All the seasoner it needs is salt, to be added when it is nearly ready of course, you eat it

with sugar. This is a fine life.

May 5,

The results of the last few days clearing culminating in today's work, are to be seen quite clearly now. The space we have opened up seems to be twice as big as it was before, and it looks big on its own—with the previous heaps disposed of, today the rubbish was put into two heaps for burning later. What thorns there was among it, too! One dead fallen tree we put at right angles to the position it was in before, and what a difference it made to the landscape. The V.C. katha was in demand too, to clear up once again what had been cleared before.

We have found that two can work this land quite easily. It is the lack of camp followers that worries us. How can one of us go home, and leave the other here alone?

Another operation had to be performed on one of the *alu-kehel*. It was cut right down to near the roots, and now it shows every sign of putting out a leaf.

As I said a little before, at the foot of the paragraph about sago, this is a great life. It makes such a difference when people know you and acknowledge you. One of my toes had gangrene to judge by the awful smell it had. I bought a bottle containing some herbal medicine for wounds. It is only thirty-five cents, I was falling asleep over this paragraph and completed it the next day.

May 6,

This is a day of rest, when one takes things easily and

looks around. It will be a great day when this acre is cleared. At last I can see the end in sight. The boundary which was pointed out to me is more clearly defined. It was not really possible to trace it out before because of the tangle of undergrowth.

It is the human relationships that count most. Originally it was the family and the tribe that provided the impetus for growth, and they were also the framework within which people worked. Capitalism broke all that down, and socialism has by no means restored it. In fact, to my way of thinking, socialism throws the onus of finding capital on to the state rather than on to private people. I think there is a better way. The initiative must be restored to the family, but since any one family cannot suffice for all its needs, people must get together in associations and pool all they have got. This will not split mankind into employers and employees as capitalism did, or perpetuate this division as managers and workmen as all kinds of socialism has done. All people will be equally respected and there will be no division as there is now. There will be no fear of trade union action, because there will be no need for trade unions. But there must be leadership and the right kind of authority and discipline.

Meanwhile, people want something. They are not prepared to put off their rewards for some distant future. They want a modicum of security and the right kind

of companionship. The factory and the work place has supplied this companionship in the past, but not, I think I am right in saying, the security.

There is a fine kind of small fish in our river. When fried in coconut oil, it is not very different from dried fish in taste, and like dried fish, all its bones can be eaten. We caught fifteen of them in quite a short time with just one rod. I think the fish is called *pettiya*.

May 7,

Clearing went on apace. It was thorns all the way. There are now three large bonfires waiting to be lit, we have cleared right up to the wood along the path that leads through the property. Beyond where we have cleared are *divul* trees in their own tangle of undergrowth forming quite an impenetrable wood. The outermost line of these *divul* trees from our southern boundary on the east, or rather, I should say the river bank. The road is our boundary to the north and there is another wood to the west. The river bank is one large wood on a steep and big slope. Between the woods to the south and the west, and running diagonally across the property, is a broad tract of old *chena* a real tangle of bushes as they all are. The area we have cleared is adjoining the river bank, almost from border to border, or should I say, boundary.

We used a light *katha* today as we could not get hold of the heavy one, and I used the V.C *katha* quite a lot,

too, spending some time on our frontage with the road. This, too, is a bank, only, we are at the bottom of it, whereas with the river we are at the top of the bank.

Everybody says this land floods. I am hoping that with the construction of a tank some where upstream of the river about two years ago, that it floods no more.

Some of the recently planted *murunga* trees have taken root and are doing well.

We planted our first plantain tree since the early days of this Shamba. It was a *kolikuttu* plant and I bought it for fifty cents. Most of the trunk we cut off and shortened some of the roots, and the new leaf in the trunk of the shortened plantain tree has already emerged a half-inch.

Many of the seeds in our seed beds have germinated and the beds are doing without their cover for the first time, all except one.

May 8,

We constructed a new seed bed today and put in it papaw seeds, *kekeri* and tomato. I am rather inclined to leave these to my companion, and I cannot say I have got all the names right. He is in a deep sleep, and the last thing I was able to get out of him was that it was *pipigna* and not *kekeri*, and that the *kekeri* is still under the bed. All these are seeds we extracted from vegetables we bought. In fact I brought, a new vegetable today, I would describe it as exotic and rare, at thirty cents a pound, purely for the seed, but I am told it is good to

eat and that it costs the earth in Colombo. The last few days I have noticed I have been almost asleep writing these notes. If I am not so today, it is because I had a nap before lunch.

We literally work from dawn to dusk, knocking off only to make coffee or cook the midday meal, to collect the mail and buy provisions, have a bath and do one or two other things that a man has to do every day. If we have visitors, we attend to them and even give them something to eat if we are eating ourselves.

The seed beds of vegetables have done very well, a number of vegetables appearing, the seeds having germinated. We have made a special bed too, for some longtime germinating seeds. There are a few of them. These I have planted in attilias when I have got round to doing so. The olive seeds are no more. I could find nothing of them in a coconut shell in which I had planted them.

The clearing goes on. There are several large heaps to burn and we set fire to one of them this evening.

WAR COST US 108 BILLION DOLLARS

The Vietnam war has cost the US the staggering sum of over 108 billion US dollars in military expenditures and aid, according to the latest survey of the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS). The Institute's "strategic survey 1972", released today, put by comparison the Soviet Union's military aid to North Vietnam at 1.66 billion dollars and that of China at 670 million dollars.

Surveying the major trends worldwide, the IISS listed among the key developments: America's retreat from the role of world policeman to that of a simple super power, and the unfurling of China's policy of containment of the Soviet Union. It termed the strategic Arms Agreement (SALT) between the US and the Soviet Union "the most important single event in 1972" which established a special relationship between the super powers.

The survey warned that as the Vietnam war fades "the dangers of international economic conflict over energy and of military conflict in southern Africa loom larger". In west Europe, North America and Japan, the threat from Middle East oil producing countries seemed to overshadow almost all military threats. But the oil seems likely to be available though at a price, it said. The IISS was founded in 1958 as a research centre on problems of international security, defence and arms control. It has an international council, staff and membership and described itself as independent of governments.

CHRONICLE

May 21 – June 2

A Diary of Events in Sri Lanka and the World compiled from English-language dailies published in Colombo.

MONDAY, MAY 21: The *Daily News* published a report of a press conference held by the Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Planning in which he outlined the joint ventures which were being discussed with India: animal husbandry, mica industries etc. The *Sun* announced that the ration of dhal would be halved from next month. The *Daily Mirror* published a report that the Audit Department Branch of the GCSU had made an allegation in a resolution that fraud and irregularities on the part of top officials of Government Departments, Local Government bodies, Corporations and other statutory bodies, detected at audit investigations were not pursued to their logical conclusions: that instead such offences were often camouflaged. Big preparations were being made for the Republic Day celebrations tomorrow. Visiting Soviet leader Brezhnev and West German Chancellor Willy Brandt signed several agreements. Fresh disclosures had added pressure to White House on the Watergate scandal.

TUESDAY, MAY 22: The first anniversary of Sri Lanka as a Republic was celebrated with great gusto today: there was a march past of the armed services and a procession of floats and school children. The Prime Minister issued a message in which she appealed to the youth and the farmers to help the Government promote economic development. She also broadcast to the nation in which she warned all "hostile forces" that they would be crushed if they opposed the Government's "socialism and justice". President Nixon's leadership was under further strain following a forthright call for his resignation from the Americans for Democratic Action as fresh reports of the involvement of presidential aides in the Watergate cover-up became public. Brezhnev continued his talks with West German Chancellor yesterday also.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 23: All daily papers were full of pictures and reports of the manner

in which Republic Day was celebrated in Colombo and in the outstations. It was reported that the *Uttara Devi* from Jaffna had been derailed at a bridge near Galgamuwa: the railway line to the North was damaged and through traffic had been suspended for at least five days. The dissident Anna DMK scored a sensational triumph over the DMK at the Dindigul by-election in Tamil Nadu when its candidate beat the official DMK candidate by a decisive 100,000 votes: the ruling Congress candidate lost his deposit. Soviet Communist Party leader Brezhnev ended his historic visit to West Germany yesterday and returned to Moscow.

THURSDAY, MAY 24: The papers reported that the CP and the LSSP were buried in a battle royal to wrest power in the GCSU. An ILO-sponsored seminar on Labour Management on Population Control and Family Planning was opened in Kandy yesterday. Troops had clashed with revolting police in the town of Lucknow in the state of Uttar Pradesh in India.

FRIDAY, MAY 25: The *Daily News* reported that the Prime Minister and the Minister of Agriculture and Lands would confer today with top officials regarding governmental action to combat the menace of encroachment into state-owned land especially in the Batticaloa district. It was alleged that many persons of Indian origin who had been displaced by many estates being taken over had encroached on Crown land in the Eastern Province. The UNP leader is reported to have asked UNPer Devanayagam, MP for Kalkudah, why he was co-operating with the TUF. Six applications were filed before the Constitutional Court challenging the validity of the Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Ltd. (Special Provisions) Bill. The *Sun* reported that 4000 others would face trial before the CJC for involvement in the April 1971 insurrection. The *Observer* published an appeal by the City Microbiologist requesting people to boil tap water before drinking because the water from the Maligakande Reservoir was contaminated with faecal matter. A sex and security scandal, similar to the Profumo-style explosion, rocked Great Britain when two Cabinet Ministers are alleged to have been involved with prostitutes and drugs. In making the announcement for a Holy Year in 1975, Pope

Paul declared that God was no longer fashionable and that it was necessary to remind the world that God existed.

SATURDAY, MAY 26: The Milk Board yesterday announced price increases of all its consumer products; the increases ranged from 50% to 100%. The Ceylon Shipping Corporation yesterday announced the purchase of its sixth merchant vessel for US dollars three millions. According to official statistics homicides had increased by nearly one hundred per cent over the last five years: 1965 it was 654 and in 1970 it was 1,100; last year it was even more. The Government, according to the *SUN*, had decided to crack down on all squatters on crown land. The sex scandal in Britain involving Cabinet Ministers and top politicians has caused a major political upheaval. The Police mutiny in Uttar Pradesh had ended and the situation had been brought under control. The Libyan delegation quit the meeting of OAU in Addis Ababa because the OAU would not agree on concentrated action against Israel. A Republican Congressman is reported to have committed suicide because of suspected involvement in the Watergate affair.

SUNDAY, MAY 27: The *Observer* reported that a major fraud in the Sri Lanka State Trading Corporation in many millions in the import of tea chests had been bared by the Auditor General and that a former SLSTC chairman, Asoka Jayasinghe, now Trade Commissioner in Rome, has been asked to answer many queries. It was also reported that there was stiff consumer resistance to the price increases by the Milk Board. The *Observer* also reported that Trincomalee will in future be out of bounds for foreign warships. The astronauts who went up yesterday in an Apollo spacecraft had docked with the Skylab laboratory: they were optimistic about repairing the damage to the Skylab sufficiently to make it fulfil its mission at least partially.

MONDAY, MAY 28: A new Cashew Corporation has been set up. The Ceylon Worker's Congress had opened a branch office in Batticaloa: it was in the Eastern Province that the Government alleged that large-scale squatting had taken place by displaced persons

of Indian origin. According to the *Daily Mirror* the Government was likely to review the Milk Board price increases—because of the stiff opposition which had arisen. The UNP wanted a complete investigation into the affairs of the Milk Board. President Nixon spent a quiet weekend in the West Indies while the storm about the Watergate affair began to grow.

TUESDAY, MAY 29: The Ministry of Justice was said to have prepared new legislation to deal with squatters and those who incite and abet encroachers: the Permanent Secretary to the Ministry stated: "...The flow of persons of Indian origin into State land in Batticaloa district was creating a security problem and therefore it was felt that fresh legislation should be drafted to tackle this situation..." The Minister of Finance had stated at a meeting that the present price increases (Milk Board etc) was due to the "past policy of drift..." The 37th accused in the first CJC trial, Income Tax Karu, alias W. T. Karunaratne, was caught a few days ago and produced before the CJC. The *Sun* reported that the Minister of Finance was intent on a tough new economic policy that Government would not subsidise anything—consumers had to pay more if world prices went up. According to the *Sun*, the losses of the CTB for this year are expected to be in the region of Rs. 15 to Rs. 20 million. India's Northern Railways were on strike—in spite of a Government ban on strikes. Skylab repairs had saved the mission, according to Houston reports.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 30: A Special Committee which was asked to report on the working of the paddy industry which is now a government monopoly—purchase, sale and distribution—has warned the Government that there would be a big dislocation in rice supplies once rice imports were stopped next year—unless the industry was reorganised immediately. The Constitutional Court had issued a rule on the MP for Nuwara Eliya, Mr. Gamini Dissanayake, for contempt of Court—he is alleged to have made some remarks disparaging of a judge of the Constitutional Court. The *Sun* reported that United Front backbenchers were perturbed about the Milk Board price increases especially in

view of the UNP's demand for an urgent debate. Dr. Sivali Ratwatte, as President of the Sinhala Tharuna Sanvidhanaya had criticised the increase of prices for all milk products. The *Times* reported that the Prime Minister has directed the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands to review the recent increases in milk foods. The engagement of Britain's Princess Anne to Cavalry officer Mark Phillips was officially announced yesterday.

THURSDAY, MAY 31: The Cabinet yesterday decided to reduce the prices of some of the milk products which were increased a few days ago, but it put up the prices of sugar and flour. The Housewives Association had yesterday staged a protest against the price increases in milk products by picketing before some milk booths. Two Army men charged with the murder of a beauty queen during the April 1971 insurgency were found guilty unanimously by the Jury of murder; and the Judge sentenced them to 16 years r. i. and condemned the heartless and cruel manner in which the accused had behaved. The MP for Mahiyangana, Edwin Wickremaratne, was charged with attempted culpable homicide when he is alleged to have assaulted a Director of Education Siriwardena in the latter's office. The Electricity Board has warned the public that there would be a power cut unless it rained in the next few days: the southwest monsoon due in mid May at the latest had not yet begun. The US Senate yesterday voted in favour of ending American bombing of Cambodia, brushing aside Nixon arguments that it would undermine Kissinger in his current talks in Paris; the vote was 55 to 21, and 19 Republicans had defected on this issue to vote against the Nixon administration.

FRIDAY, JUNE 1: At a press conference yesterday, Deputy Minister of Defence and External Affairs, Lakshman Jayakody, stated that the establishment of a separate state was unconstitutional and a treasonable act: that the activities of the TUF were being watched

with great care. The Minister of Agriculture and Lands was reported to have "decided" to investigate the working of the National Milk Board which was losing Rs. 20,000 a day and which in 1972 had recorded a loss of Rs. 15 million (the losses for 1973 were not known). According to the officials of the Colombo Municipal Council, stated the *Times* the milk processed at the Milk Board plant at Narahenpita was not up to standards stipulated in the Food and Drugs Act. A power cut was to be imposed from June 5—if there was no heavy rain in the meantime. An Indian Airlines plane flying from Madras to Delhi had crashed near Palam airport: 47 had been killed including Mohan Kumaramangalam, a Cabinet Minister and a top aide of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. President Nixon and President Pompidou began crucial talks in Iceland yesterday.

SATURDAY, JUNE 2: The Minister of Agriculture wanted the Milk Board to be investigated by an independent committee: he said that there would be no Ministry officials on it: "... I don't want it said that any attempt was being made to whitewash the Milk Board by having it probed by officials of the Ministry ...". The *Daily Mirror* reported that the Minister of Education had tabooed in his new Code of Ethics for teacher's; hipsters, sideburns, low plunging necklines, tight-contour emphasising dresses and other mod outfit. The new "controlled" price of bread in Colombo was 46 cents a pound: the price of all wheat flour food products like hoppers and string hoppers had also gone up. Mr. Abdul Aziz, MP, and President of DWC had appealed to the Minister of Justice to drop the special legislation to oust squatters in the Eastern Province. The SLFP had picked Mr. Dharmasisri Senanayake, now Chairman of the Tourist Board, to contest the Dedigama seat: he had lost in the last General Elections by a small majority to Mr. Dudley Senanayake. The *Times* reported that 450 cows were being airlifted from Denmark to Sri Lanka. The three Skylab astronauts were reported to be in a cheerful mood.

CHINA

Peking has Adequate Supply of Vegetables

Peking,

The combined efforts of commune vegetable growers and the state commercial departments have ensured adequate vegetable supply at Peking markets at stable prices. Peking's four million city dwellers are provided with an average of half a kilogramme of vegetables daily, mainly from local sources. This is the slack vegetable season but the markets are still well-stocked with cabbage, spinach, carrots, turnips, celery and other vegetables.

Vegetables cannot be grown in the open in Peking for four winter months. The vegetable growing brigades are increasing the number of cold frames so as to provide winter vegetables at a reasonable cost. Cold frames are also used to nurse seedlings for earlier ripening of spring vegetables.

Eighty per cent of the vegetables sold are delivered directly to the markets from the brigades. During the season, most vegetables are picked or cut within an hour of loading time to ensure freshness. Vegetable markets and shops are to be found in all Peking's residential quarters and the main streets and lanes. The markets are open from 7.30 a.m. until six or 6.30 p.m. Many have special sections that cater to customers after hours, some

doing business round the clock.

In addition, sales personnel from the markets sell vegetables from house to house from tricycle carts during the day. At the height of the growing season people can buy vegetables at street-corner stalls on their way home after work. All Peking's 280 vegetable growing brigades produce on contract for the state commercial department which guarantees to buy the full planned output.

In fixing purchase and selling prices, the state commercial department sees to it that vegetable growers are ensured reasonable returns while the consumers are not burdened.

Peking's outskirts last autumn harvested 300,000 tons of cabbage, the main vegetable for the Peking population in winter. One-third of this was stored by vegetable growing brigades and delivered to the market gradually during the winter.

Taking into consideration the labour of the growers and their loss due to storage, the state commercial department has steadily raised the purchase price while narrowing the gap between the purchase and selling prices.

First-rate cabbage was sold at 0.05 yuan per kilogramme in early November when the purchase price was 0.04 yuan.

Now it is being sold for the price it is purchased at—0.13 yuan per kilogramme.

Despite allowances for seasonal differentials, the purchase and selling prices of vegetables as a whole have remained stable over the years.

A leader of the Puhuangyu brigade of the Nanyuan Commune said: "vegetable growers had no guarantee before liberation because of heavy exploitation by middlemen. We suffered losses when the harvest was bad. And we had to let the vegetables rot in the field when the harvest was too good."

This brigade of 3,000 people has had a steady increase in income in the past few years thanks to introduction of new strains and improvement in quality. Sales of vegetables earned the brigade 750,000 yuan last year, an increase of 60,000 yuan over 1970.

—Hsinhua

AUSSIE OBSCENITIES

Overseas students will be able to learn obscene language used by Australians at a special course beginning the University of New South Wales in Sydney. A university spokesman said a lesson in obscene language had been included in a four-week course designed to help overseas students. The course text book translates most of the four-letter words used commonly in Australia.

IS IT TRUE?

Sherlock Holmes

* ON D.D.Cs

IS IT TRUE that several co-operative farms, started by DDCs (District Development Councils), under the Five Year Plan of the Government have already become white elephants? That according to a survey recently conducted by the Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs it was found that in many farms more money than was allocated was used without the desired results? That a sum of Rs. 32,000 had so far been spent on a piggery at Korosduwa by the Wadduwa-Mölligoda DDC, but up to the time of the survey not a single pig had been brought to the place? That it would appear that this large sum of money has been spent on the construction of buildings and other overheads? That this sum of money had been spent on the "advice" of a VIP in the Ministry? That a poultry farm started by the Ja-ela-Nivandam DDC has been closed down on the advice of the Director of Planning, Cojumbo District? That a sum of Rs. 16,000 had already been spent on this project? That the poultry cages had been built and 250 birds had been installed when the closure order was made? That this order was made because there was no more money for the main-

tenance of the farm (with its comparatively heavy overheads) and for further development?

That an agricultural farm at Kumbukkan Aru in Polonnaruwa district has also been closed down? That a sum of Rs. 81,000 had been allocated for this project and out of this sum more than half had already been spent? That an audit inquiry is now said to be in progress in regard to another farm in the Polonnaruwa District at Matalawe for which a sum of Rs. 163,000 had been allocated? That a farm started by the Koslande-Haputale DDC has been closed down because of the drought? That a "watakal" products centre opened by the Kotte-Galkissa DDC is being run with the greatest difficulty?

That according to the *Aththa*, which gave some publicity to this matter, members of several District Development Councils allege that the failure of these and other schemes was due to lack of knowledge and know-how on the part of officers of the Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs? That according to what Sherlock Holmes has found out it was the atmosphere in which the DDCs began functioning

which has made failure inevitable? That in many cases the wrong kind of men were chosen to constitute these DDCs? That party loyalists and stooges of MPs were nominated to these Boards? That even if a few competent persons were chosen, they were lost among the corrupt, ignorant and the inefficient who had jumped into the band wagon on political opportunism? That everybody concerned in these schemes (whatever averments and proclamations had been made by the Government and the Ministry that the DDCs would help the small man to start production on a co-operative and collective basis utilising personal initiative and enthusiasm), believed that all the projects under the DDCs were state-owned and state-sponsored undertakings in which the "employed" would become public servants or semi-corporation employees? That when people discovered that these projects were only self-help co-operative undertakings, enthusiasm for them dropped? That even in places where there was "enthusiasm", corrupt bureaucrats and political racketeers made progress impossible? That the biggest obstacle to any real development was that amateurs paraded as experts because they were part of the bureaucratic machine of the Ministry or the Government? That much of the Five Year Plan hinged on the DDCs? That Government has to do a great deal of re-thinking not only about the DDCs but also about the Five Year Plan?

Printed and Published by P. Alagesan, residing at 21/5, Bullers Lane, Colombo 7, for Tribune Publications 43, Dawson Street, Colombo-2, at the Ratnakra Press Ltd., Colombo-12, on 23rd June, 1973.